

NATIONAL AMBER ALERT
NETWORK ACT

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, we were notified that the Senate has passed the National AMBER Alert Network Act, and it will be introduced here in the House and will be taken up shortly.

As founder and chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, I am an original co-sponsor of that piece of legislation, and I am here to encourage my colleagues to join me in that commonsense bipartisan legislation.

The National AMBER Alert Network Act builds on the success of the AMBER Alert Plan, a voluntary, cooperative program between law enforcement agencies and local broadcasters to quickly send an emergency alert to the public when a child has been abducted. Thanks to the work of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and others, there are now 84 AMBER plans. Still, the vast majority of America's communities have not established an AMBER plan to protect their children.

This legislation provides State and local entities grants through the Departments of Justice and Transportation for highway signage, education and training programs, and equipment to facilitate AMBER Alert systems. The bill offers States the resources they need to establish a seamless network of AMBER plans.

Please join me in supporting the National AMBER Alert Network Act.

IT IS TIME TO STAND FOR PEACE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. process of inspections can work if the administration will let it; and yet we see, despite the efforts of the United Nations, the administration is preparing for war, preparing to send as many as 300,000 of our young men and women into battle. Stories of up to 800 missiles, poised for an attack on Baghdad, a city of over 3 million people. Reports of a new military strategy which plays off of this big missile attack which would attack water systems and electrical systems to totally destroy any infrastructure in Iraq, even news reports that the use of nuclear weapons is being considered.

Americans need to think about it. We have a country here which is dedicated to liberty and justice. But where is the justice if we are the first ones to use nuclear weapons? Where is the justice if we are going to attack a nation that has not attacked us? Where is the justice? It is time to stand for peace.

JOINT SESSION OF THE CON-
GRESS—STATE OF THE UNION
MESSAGE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 12) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 12

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

□ 1605

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 26) honoring the contributions of Catholic schools, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 26

Whereas America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2001-2002 academic year was 2,616,330, and the student-teacher ratio is 17 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students;

Whereas more than 26 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13 percent are Non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of America's thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 26.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 26, which recognizes the contribution of America's Catholic elementary and secondary schools and congratulates these schools, students, teachers and parents for their dedication to education in our country.

I would like to thank the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some remarkable facts about Catholic